**SAFE WORK PRACTICE: BOAT OPERATIONS**

Boat operators should familiarize themselves, and passengers with safety features and

equipment on their boats. Boats are to be operated only by qualified personnel.

Life jackets, work vests, Mustang suits, or other appropriate Coast Guard approved

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) should be worn by personnel in small boats. Mustang suits are particularly critical in extremely cold conditions. See **Type V (Special Use)** below.

**Types of Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)**

**Type I** Off-shore life jackets provides the most buoyancy. It is effective for all waters

and intended specifically for open, rough or remote waters where rescue may

be delayed.

**Type II** Near-shore buoyancy vests are intended for calm, inland water or where there

is a good chance of quick rescue.

**Type III** Flotation aids are good for calm, inland water, or where there is a good chance

of quick rescue. Examples: float coats, fishing vests, and ski vests.

**Type IV** These are throwable devices, not intended to be worn or to replace those that

are worn.

**General On-Water Operational Rules**

􀂃 Small boats should generally not be operated after sunset. If this is required and poses minimal risk, routes of operations and communication requirements should be carefully prescribed. Each boat will be fully equipped with appropriate running lights and

emergency signaling devices.

􀂃 Three or more means of distress signaling should be carried on board all vessels at all

times. For example, a radio or cell phone, fog horn, or whistle.

􀂃 Boat operators must keep their supervisors informed of their area of operations.

􀂃 Boat operators should never anchor their boats by the stern. This is typically the lowest

point on the boat due to design and/or loading, and is often squared off, making it

vulnerable to swamping.

SITE SAFETY PLAN

􀂃 Portable fuel tanks should be filled outside of the boat. All sources of ignition in the

area of fueling (e.g., engines, stoves or heat producing equipment, and electrical

equipment) should be secured while fueling.

􀂃 Smoking in areas where portable fuel tanks are stored is strictly prohibited.

􀂃 Strict adherence to the buddy system must be observed in small boats; and all boats

should be in direct visual or radio contact with a shore base at all times.

􀂃 To avoid slipping on wet decks or falling in small boats, personnel should remain

seated while boat is underway.

􀂃 Horseplay and speeding is strictly prohibited.

􀂃 Boat operators must ensure that boats are not overloaded.

􀂃 Work shoes, safety sunglasses, and hearing protection should be worn by personnel

working on, or operating small boats where appropriate.

􀂃 Depending on the specific nature of the operations (e.g., work in remote areas), other

emergency equipment should be considered such as: anchors, radios, bailers, first aid

kits, and additional means of propulsion (e.g., paddles).

􀂃 Boat personnel are cautioned not to use their legs as fenders, or get their hands, arms, or legs between vessels or between vessels and docks.